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19 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Security Branch, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Conversation with [ ] Assistant to  
the Director for Public Relations Regarding U-2

1. [ ] called the afternoon of 18 October to say that during a visit by Mr. Dulles to North Carolina last week, I believe at the time the President received an honorary degree at the University of North Carolina, he was approached by Mr. David Wise of the New York Herald Tribune and Mr. Tom Ross of the Chicago Sun-Times. These gentlemen said that they had a contract to write a detailed book on the U-2 Program, and that they had already received advances from the publisher for this purpose. They reportedly wanted to obtain the Director's endorsement for this book and his assistance as well in providing much of the detail.

2. The Director's response, although not quoted exactly by Colonel [ ], apparently was sufficiently encouraging that Wise and Ross checked in at the White House to see what the present policy was there. Mr. Salinger reportedly said he saw no reason why such a book could not and should not be written, especially since its authors said that they intended that the impact would be wholly favorable to the Agency, and Salinger referred the authors to [ ]. [ ] was sounding us out on our opinion about the book in his call to me.

3. I told him that I could see no useful purpose served by such a volume at this time, especially in view of the continuation of the U-2 Project and the possible exposure of the level of our current interest. I said that I thought it would be quite counter-productive in terms of the amount of effort we would have to expend to provide the amount of detail obviously desired, and I said that I also had grave questions about the declassification of much of the matter now in our files on this subject. I even bethumbed to point out that I was not wholly certain that the Director himself could make the decision to open the files in this case; my analogy was to point out that since the Special Group has now assumed almost a direct line relationship to everything we do that I felt their opinion might be required as being

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somewhat more substantive than that of Mr. Salinger.   
concluded by saying that he would advise the Director against this, and  
let me know what the outcome was.

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Assistant Chief  
DPD-DD/P